

# Legislative Report 2021

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MANDATE: UTAH CODE TITLE 26, CHAPTER 7,  
SECTION 2

MISSION: TO ADVANCE HEALTH EQUITY AND  
REDUCE HEALTH DISPARITIES IN UTAH

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UTAH DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH**  
Office of Health Disparities

# PROJECTS

## COVID Community Partnership (CCP) Phase II, Phase III, Phase IV

- The COVID Community Partnership (CCP) Project aims to address disparities in COVID-19 related to health outcomes among under-resourced communities in Utah. The CCP project employs community health workers (CHWs) from diverse communities through partnerships with community-based organizations (CBOs) and local health departments (LHDs) to incorporate CHWs into the COVID-19 emergency response. The CCP Project was created in 2020 and to date has been operationalized in four phases. With Phases 1 and 2, the CCP Project partnered with COVID-19 testing sites to increase accessibility in communities who experience health disparities. Phases 3 and 4 of the project transitioned to support equitable vaccine distribution efforts and combating misinformation.
- **Funded Community and Local Partners:** 13 local health departments, community-based organizations that service racial/ethnic minority communities, people who live with disabilities, under-resourced communities and families, LGBTQ+ communities, people who experience homelessness
- **Funded partners:** Alliance Community Services, Centro Hispano, Comunidades Unidas, International Rescue Committee, OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates, Project Success Coalition, Somali Community Self-Management Agency, Urban Indian Center of Salt Lake, Children's Service Society, Latino Behavioral Health, Utah Health and Human Rights, Holy Cross Ministries, Best of Africa Cultural Group, Cache Refugee and Immigrant Connection, Comunidad Materna en Utah, Midvale Community Building Community, Moab Valley Multicultural Center, People's Health Clinic, Open Doors, Utah Navajo Health System, Pacific Islander Knowledge 2 Action/Utah Pride Center, and Utah Pacific Islander Health Coalition
- **Partnerships and Reach to Diverse Communities:**
  - 24 unique community-based organizations and their CHWs
  - Utah's 13 local health departments

# PROJECTS

## COVID Community Partnership (CCP) Phase II, Phase III, Phase IV

- 24 unique community-based organizations and their CHWs
- Utah's 13 local health departments
- More than 130 CHWs who work to address COVID-19
- Served 54 languages in outreach activities
- 13,512 outreach activities
- More than 1,055 partnerships formed through CCP
- **Technical Assistance and Training Provided**
  - 153 trainings provided to CHWs
  - 50 meetings and training sessions through Utah Public Health Association CHW Section
  - 58 Check-in Calls
  - 42 Support groups, 22 in English and 20 in Spanish
  - 62 Self-care sessions
  - 2 Mental health trainings: 1) Question, Persuade and Refer 2) How to Support Clients who need Mental Healthcare
- **Access to Testing and Vaccines**
  - Total referrals to testing: 19,875 (Phases 1-3)
  - Total referrals to vaccine clinics: 40,704
  - Hosted vaccine sites: 277
  - Supported vaccine sites: 245
  - CHWs onsite at vaccine clinics: 1,065
  - Individuals registered by a CHW for a vaccine appointment: 24,615
- **Addressing Needs**
  - Individuals referred to CCP CHW for follow-up: 17,171
  - Number who reported one or more social need(s): 1,704
  - Top three needs: housing, food, utilities
  - Total referred to resources: 8,436



## COVID Community Partnership (CCP) Phase II, Phase III, Phase IV

- **Access to Vaccines**
  - 227 vaccine clinics hosted by CCP-contracted organizations
  - 1,065 CHWs assisted vaccine clinics onsite
  - CHWs registered 24,615 individuals for vaccine appointments
  - CHWs referred 40,704 individuals to vaccine clinics
- **Published Reports Related to the CCP Project**
  - [COVID Community Partnership Project 2020-2021: Outcomes of Integrating Community Health Workers into COVID-19 Response Efforts.](#) September 2021
  - [Lack of Availability or Accessibility to Resources: Analyzing the Gaps in Resource Connection During COVID-19.](#) July 2021
  - [COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy or Access Barriers: Understanding Utah's Racial and Ethnic Minority Communities' Attitudes to Inform an Effective Approach.](#) June 2021
  - [Community Voices Collected by Community Health Workers during COVID-19.](#) June 2021
  - [Health Equity Mindset: Cultivating Collaboratives to Advance Health Equity.](#) June 2021
  - [COVID Community Partnership \(CCP\) Project 2020 \(Phase II\): Expanding the Capacity of Community Health Workers \(CHWs\) into COVID-19 Response Efforts.](#) January 2021
  - [COVID Community Partnership \(CCP\) Pilot Project \(Phase I\): Integrating Community Health Workers \(CHWs\) into COVID-19 Response Efforts Report.](#) November 2020

# PROJECTS

## The Embrace Project

- The Embrace Project is a community-based research study which mobilizes academic, health, and community experts, including community health workers. The goal is to provide wellness screening and coaching services to racial and ethnic minority women in Utah who are between 18–44 years old, with an emphasis on women who are Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. These services are provided across Utah’s Wasatch Front region (Salt Lake, Utah, Davis, and Weber counties), where poor maternal mortality and morbidity, diabetes, and related outcomes have been identified and where the majority of racial and ethnic minority families reside in Utah.
- **Partners:** University of Utah The Wellness Bus (TWB), University of Utah Health Obstetrics and Gynecology Division, Comunidad Materna en Utah, National Tongan American Society, Project Success Coalition, Utah Muslim Civic League, Utah Pacific Islander Health Coalition, UDOH Environment, Policy, and Improved Clinical Care Program, and UDOH Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCH)
- During the study, partners identified many study participants who screened high for anxiety and depression as well as a lack of affordable and culturally responsive mental health services. The OHD worked with partners to create mental health support groups for Embrace study participants to meet this need.
- **The Embrace Project Study Sustainability Plan:** The OHD collaborated with partners to choose a sustainability framework and create a sustainability plan for the study. The sustainability plan is currently being implemented to ensure effective components of the study continue to benefit communities.
- **The Embrace Project Study Dissemination Plan:** The OHD collaborated with partners to create a dissemination plan. The plan focuses on sharing meaningful findings and processes so many organizations locally, nationally, and globally may benefit.
- **Project Related Reports:**
  - [Utah Health Disparities Profile: Diabetes and Gestational Diabetes among Racial and Ethnic Minority Women in Utah](#)

# PROJECTS

## Health Status by Race/Ethnicity 2021

- **Partners:** UDOH Office of Public Health Assessment, UDOH Bureau of Health Promotion, UDOH Bureau of Maternal and Child Health, UDOH Bureau of Epidemiology, Utah Cancer Registry
- The OHD began a draft of the Utah Health Status by Race/Ethnicity 2020 Report in 2019. The project was postponed until 2021, and was recently released in November 2021. <https://health.utah.gov/disparities/data/race-ethnicity-report/2021HealthStatusbyRace&Ethnicity.pdf>

## OHD Strategic Plan 2021-2023

- **Partners:** UDOH Health Equity Workgroup
- The OHD designed and gathered feedback on a strategic plan for 2021-2023. The plan focuses on OHD's efforts to advance health equity in Utah through four strategic practices: build internal infrastructure, work across agencies, foster community partnerships, and expand the narrative. <https://health.utah.gov/disparities/data/policies-and-procedures/OHDStrategicPlan2021-2023.pdf>

# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

## Striving Toward Equity: Utah's COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Roadmap

- **Partners:** Utah Multicultural Advisory Committee for COVID-19, UDOH Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, UDOH Office of American Indians Alaska Natives Affairs, UDOH Office of Public Information and Marketing, and Office of Homeless Services.
- The OHD provided feedback, coordinated, and facilitated meetings with partners.

## Monterey County, CA Local Health Department

- The OHD offered technical assistance to Monterey County LHD with regard to our COVID Community Partnership (CCP) project. This LHD wanted to implement work similar to ours concerning community health workers and social determinants of health (SDOH) screening.

## Promising Practice It Takes A Village (ITAV) Update

- **Partners:** Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP)
- The OHD provided technical assistance to update OHD's AMCHP-designated promising practice: It Takes A Village (ITAV). The migration of platforms necessitated this and promotes OHD's work for public health organizations locally and nationally.

## Rural Mobile MAT Clinics

- **Partners:** UDOH Violence and Injury Prevention Program (VIPP) and Utah Department of Human Services (DHS)
- The OHD provided technical assistance with regard to background information related to a past mobile primary care unit and integration of MAT services.

# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

## Community Health Needs Assessment

- **Partners:** Intermountain Health Care and UDOH Office of Public Health Assessment
- The OHD provided technical assistance to incorporate a health equity lens to the approach of the community health needs assessment.

## Project ARIISE

- **Partner:** College of Nursing, University of Utah Health
- The OHD is part of this collaborative that aims to improve patient care by training faculty, residents, and fellows on how to confront racial-ethnic disparities within maternal health.

## One Utah Roadmap Data Inventory

- **Partners:** UDOH Centers for Health Data and Informatics (CHDI) and UDOH Bureau of Health Promotion Surveillance, Evaluation, Epidemiology, and Data (SEED) Workgroup
- The OHD, with the assistance of members of SEED, provided technical assistance to the UDOH CHDI through compilation of a data inventory of items related to health equity.

## Tobacco Control and Prevention Dashboard

- **Partner:** UDOH Tobacco Prevent and Control Program (TPCP)
- The OHD provided technical assistance for TPCP's data dashboard. Feedback included inclusive terminology and visualizations and standardization of health disparities data analysis.



# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

## UDOH Bureau of Health Promotion Trauma-Informed Survey

- **Partner:** UDOH Bureau of Health Promotion
- The OHD provided technical assistance through content review for inclusion, standard race and ethnicity data collection, and health equity-related questions.

## VIPP Strategic Plan

- **Partner:** UDOH Violence and Injury Prevention Program (VIPP)
- The OHD provided technical assistance through content review for technical language, approach, framework, and structure related to health equity and health disparities.

## Data Limitations Document

- **Partner:** Office of American Indian/Alaska Native Health Affairs (OAIANHA)
- The OHD provided feedback on this document related to health equity and health disparities technical words and structure.

## Social Determinants of Health Data

- **Partner:** UDOH Bureau of Health Promotion
- The OHD provided technical assistance to the UDOH Bureau of Health Promotion's efforts with social determinants of health data to ensure it aligns with OHD's health equity framework.

## Data Collection for People who Identify as Middle Eastern and North African (MENA)

- **Partners:** UDOH Healthy Living through Environment, Policy, and Improved Clinical Care (EPICC)
- The OHD provided technical assistance to determine how to more gradually collect data on individuals who are categorized as white, but identify as Middle Eastern and North African.

# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

## Environmental Epidemiology Program Infographic

- **Partner:** UDOH Environmental Epidemiology Program (EEP)
- The OHD provided feedback and review of an infographic to ensure language was inclusive and an accurate interpretation of data on health disparities and health equity.

## Safe Haven First Responders Training Video

- **Partner:** UDOH Office of Home Visiting
- The OHD provided technical assistance in the review of the Safe Haven First Responders Training Video.

## NIH Study Grants for Utah Aging Program Outreach

- **Partner:** The University of Utah Medical Center
- The OHD provided feedback on how to better reach and work with racial/ethnic minority seniors.

## Social Determinants of Health Data

- **Partner:** UDOH Bureau of Health Promotion
- The OHD provided technical assistance to the UDOH Bureau of Health Promotion's efforts with social determinants of health data to ensure it aligns with OHD's health equity framework.

## Cultural and Linguistic Appropriate Services (CLAS) Assessment

- **Partner:** The University of Utah Wellness Bus
- The OHD conducted an assessment and provided recommendations on how to improve service delivery from a cultural and linguistic perspective.

# GROUPS & COMMITTEES

## OHD Committee Leadership

- UDOH Health Disparities Advisory Council (HDAC)
- UDOH Health Equity Workgroup (HEWG)
- UDOH Unified Command, COVID-19 Disparities

## Groups and/or Advisory Committee's Membership

- Multicultural Advisory Committee for COVID-19
- Intermountain Healthcare Health Equity Advisory Council
- National Association of Minority Health Officials
- U.S. Health and Human Services Region 8 State Office of Minority Health Committee
- ASTHO Minority Health & Health Equity Leadership Network
- Project ARIISE Community Advisory Board
- Ken Gardner Institute Policy Advisory Council
- Fourth Street Clinic Quality Improvement and Credentialing Board Committee
- UDOH Bureau of Health Promotion Surveillance, Evaluation, Epidemiology, and Data (SEED) Workgroup
- Utah Hispanic/Latino Leaders
- UDOH Senior Leadership Team
- UDOH Health Equity Workgroup
- UDOH Population Health
- UDOH Analyst Network
- UDOH Bureau of Health Promotion Utah Mapping Project Planning Committee
- UDOH Changing the Curve Initiative
- Utah Disabilities Advisory Committee (UDAC)
- UDOH Language Access Group
- UDOH Health Disparities Advisory Committee
- Public Education Campaigns & Outreach (PECO) Consolidation Sub-Committee
- UDOH Office of Home Visiting Collaboration Council
- UDOH Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Committee
- Utah Oral Health Coalition
- Utah Newborn Safe Haven
- Get Healthy Utah Board
- Office of Home Visiting Community Advisory Board
- Well Woman Coalition

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## Additional Reports

- March 2021: TOOLS FOR ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY IN UTAH: How to Collect Race and Ethnicity Data.  
<https://health.utah.gov/disparities/COVIDdata/recommendations.pdf>
- June 2021: Health Equity Mindset: Cultivating Collaboratives to Advance Health Equity.  
<https://health.utah.gov/disparities/data/briefs/HealthEquityMindset.2021.pdf>

## Awards and Recognition

- The leadership team at the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Salt Lake City, chose the Utah Office for Health Disparities (OHD) to receive the Rescue Partner Awards at Breaking Bread at Home in November 2020. The OHD was recognized for dedicated efforts to rapidly support vulnerable communities since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic in Utah, especially through the efforts of the Community Health Worker program.